

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A facility information registration and search system comprising:

a management center for storing and managing facility information of different facility types;

a registration terminal for enabling an information provider to register facility information; and

a search terminal for providing the facility information to a user;

wherein the registration terminal is provided with:

a facility information input unit for enabling the information provider to enter facility information corresponding to registration headings based on a registration template, the registration template having predetermined registration headings; and

a registrable facility information transmitter that transmits facility information entered by the facility information input unit to the management center;

wherein the search terminal is provided with:

a sought information input unit for enabling a user to enter sought information corresponding to search headings in a search template, said search headings matching the registration headings;

a sought information transmitter for transmitting sought information entered by the sought information input unit to the management center; and

a notifying unit for outputting a facility information search result transmitted by the management center in response to transmission of sought information by the sought information transmitter;

wherein the management center is provided with:

a facility information storage unit for storing the facility information transmitted from the registration terminal;

a search unit for searching the facility information stored in the facility information storage unit with the sought information transmitted from the search terminal; and

a sought facility information transmitter for transmitting the facility information search result retrieved by the search unit to the search terminal.

2. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 1, wherein the registration template and search template are available in varieties differing with a facility type.

3. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 1, wherein the registration template and the search template are

transmitted from the management center.

4. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 1, wherein the sought information input unit permits omission of sought information for some of the search headings stated in the search template; and

the search unit of the management center performs search based on non-omitted sought information.

5. The facility information registration and search system, according to Claim 1, wherein:

the management center has a search frequency storage unit for storing a number of hits according to a search, the number of hits stored separately for each item of facility information, and

the management center stores and updates the number of hits into the search frequency storage unit based on a search result by the search unit.

6. The facility information registration and search system, according to Claim 1, wherein:

the management center has a search frequency storage unit for storing a frequency of utilization, the frequency of utilization representing a number of times the facility information has been utilized separately for each item of facility information;

the search terminal has a utilization frequency storage function to notify the management center of utilized facility information and for the management center to update the frequency of utilization when a facility information search result is utilized by the user when the utilized facility information search result is output from the search terminal, the search terminal storing the frequency of utilization into the utilization frequency storage unit.

7. The facility information registration and search system, according to Claim 1, wherein the management center calculates a fee for registration in storing the facility information from the registration terminal.

8. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 7, wherein:

either a number of hits or a frequency of utilization is recorded in the frequency storage unit;

a registration fee is discounted based on either the number of hits stored in the search frequency storage unit or the frequency of utilization stored in the utilization frequency storage unit.

9. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 1, wherein:

a registrable information input unit of the registration terminal enters at least locational information as facility information in association with map data by displaying a map and enabling a map location to be selected.

10. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 9, wherein map data displayed by the registrable information input unit of the registration terminal is transmitted from the management center.

11. The facility information registration and search system, according to Claim 1, wherein the search terminal is a car navigation system having a route guidance function.

12. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 11, wherein:

the search terminal transmits at least one of a current location, destination, points en route and guide route to the management center as sought information or part of sought information, the guide rout being a route to a destination;

the search unit searching the facility information with reference to areas around the current location, destination, points en route and guided route,

transmitted from the search terminal as ranges of search.

13. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 11, wherein the search terminal sets a destination or points en route based on the facility information search result transmitted from the management center.

14. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 11, wherein the search terminal notifies the management center when a destination or point en route is set based on the facility information, the search terminal notifying the management center that the facility information has been utilized.

15. A management center comprising:

a facility information registration and search system with a registration terminal for enabling an information provider to register facility information for various facility types;

a search terminal for notifying a user of the facility information;

a management center storing and managing the facility information;

wherein the registration terminal is provided with

a facility information input unit for enabling an information provider to enter information corresponding to the registration headings as the facility information based on a registration template in which predetermined registration headings are stated;

wherein the registration terminal includes a registrable facility information transmitter for transmitting facility information entered by the facility information input unit to the management center; and

wherein the search terminal is provided with a sought information input unit for enabling the user to enter sought information corresponding to search headings for searching according to the registration headings based on a search template in which predetermined search headings matching the registration headings are stated;

a sought information transmitter for transmitting sought information entered by the sought information input unit to the management center;

a notifying unit for notifying facility information as the search result transmitted by the management center in response to the transmission of the sought information by the sought information transmitter;

wherein the management center further includes:

a facility information storage unit for storing the facility information transmitted from the

registration terminal;

a search unit for searching the facility information stored in the facility information storage unit by using the sought information transmitted from the search terminal; and

a sought facility information transmitter for transmitting to the search terminal facility information as the search result retrieved by the search unit.

16. A registration terminal including a facility information registration and search system together with a management center for storing and managing facility information regarding various facility types, said registration terminal comprising:

a sought information transmitter for transmitting sought information entered by the sought information input unit to the management center;

a notifying unit for notifying facility information as the search result transmitted by the management center in response to the transmission of the sought information by the sought information transmitter; and

wherein the management center includes:

a facility information storage unit for storing the facility information transmitted from the registration terminal;

a search unit for searching the facility information stored in the facility information storage

unit by using the sought information transmitted from the search terminal;

a sought facility information transmitter for transmitting to the search terminal facility information as the search result retrieved by the search unit;

wherein the registration terminal further includes a facility information input unit for enabling the information provider to enter, , information corresponding to the registration headings as the facility information based on a registration template in which registration headings are stated; and

a registrable facility information transmitter for transmitting the facility information entered by the facility information input unit to the management center.

17. A registration terminal including a facility information registration and search system together with a management center for storing and managing facility information regarding various facility types, the registration terminal comprising:

a facility information input unit for enabling the information provider to enter information corresponding to the registration headings as the facility information based on a registration template in which predetermined registration headings are stated;

a registrable facility information transmitter for

transmitting the facility information entered by the facility information input unit to the management center; and

wherein the management center is provided with:

a facility information storage unit for storing facility information transmitted from the registration terminal;

a search unit for searching the facility information stored in the facility information storage unit by using the sought information transmitted from the search terminal; and

a sought facility information transmitter for transmitting to the search terminal facility information as the search result retrieved by the search unit;

wherein the search terminal further includes:

a sought information input unit for enabling an user to enter sought information corresponding to the search headings for searching according to the registration headings based on a search template in which predetermined search headings matching the registration headings are stated;

a sought information transmitter for transmitting the sought information entered by the sought information input unit to the management center; and

a notifying unit for notifying, in response to the transmission of the sought information by the sought information transmitter, facility information as the

search result transmitted by the management center.

18. A facility information registration and search system, comprising:

a management center that stores and manages facility information;

a registration terminal interfacing with a registration user through a registration template, said registration template having predetermined registration headings, facility information being transmitted from said registration terminal according to said registration template to said management center; and

a search terminal interfacing with a search user through a search template, said search template having search headings, said search template and said search headings matching said registration template and said registration headings, said search terminal uploading sought information according to search headings and said search template to said management center;

wherein said management center searches said facility information based on said search information and provides a search result to said user.

19. The facility information registration and search system according to Claim 18, wherein the registration template and the search template are created at the management center and distributed from

the management center to the search terminal and registration terminal respectively.

20. The facility information registration and search system, according to Claim 1, wherein the management center stores a number of hits generated by the management center when searching said facility information.

21. A method for searching facility information comprising:

obtaining facility information through a plurality of registration headings on a registration template of a registration terminal;

transmitting said facility information to a management center;

obtaining sought information through a plurality of search headings on a search template of a search terminal, said search headings and said search template matching respective said registration headings and said registration template;

transmitting said sought information to said management center;

searching said facility information according to said sought information at said management center; and

outputting a search result from said management center.